

Gaming Update



June 2006

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State Gaming Commission to Finalize Rulemaking Process

The State Gaming Commission will meet on **July 13, 2006**, from **1:00 – 5:00 pm** in the Fort Totten Room on the Ground Floor of the State Capitol with representatives of the Advisory Board and Office of Attorney General. The Commission will consider and act on the public comments that were expressed during the rule-making process.

Public comments were expressed on twenty-one general areas of the rules. Also, the Commission received four comment letters either during the hearings or prior to the deadline for comments on December 30, 2005.

Formal action on the rules and submission to Legislative Council prior to August 15 would make the administrative rules effective on October 1, 2006.

Reminder - 17th floor Temporarily Closed

The Office of Attorney General's Gaming Division/Licensing Section has temporarily relocating during installation of a fire sprinkler system in the State Capitol building during a 6 week period (June 30 – August 11).

During this time, the Gaming Division and Licensing Section will be temporarily relocated at Northbrook Mall (1929 N. Washington St) although organizations should continue to send all written correspondence to the current address at 600 E. Boulevard Ave and the mail will be routed to the appropriate staff members. Telephone extension numbers will remain the same.

The staff appreciates your patience during this temporary relocation.

A copy of **GAMING UPDATE** is provided free of charge to all gaming distributors and organizations, and to the Gaming Commission and Advisory Board members. Please share this newsletter.



History of Bingo

The origins of Bingo can be traced back to the year 1530 and a National Lottery game called "*Lo Giuoco del Lotto d'Italia*" which is still played weekly every Saturday in Italy. This game migrated to France in the late 1700's in a form similar to the Bingo we know today, with a playing card, tokens, and numbers read aloud.

Throughout the 1800s these lottery type games spread quickly throughout Europe and many offshoots of the game were created. One popular form of the game had a player's card divided into three horizontal rows and nine vertical ones. The first vertical row contained the numbers from 1 to 10, the second from 11 to 20, and so on until 81-90 on the ninth vertical row. The three horizontal rows each contained five squares with numbers in them and four blank ones. No two cards were alike. The caller would then draw from a bag of wooden chips numbered from 1 to 90. The object of the game was to be the first to completely cover one of the three horizontal rows. The blank squares were considered free squares much like the free square in Bingo cards today.

On an evening in December of 1929, Edwin S. Lowe, a New York toy salesman, decided to drive to Jacksonville, Georgia so that he might have an early start for his next day's appointments. A few miles from Jacksonville, Lowe came across the bright lights of a country carnival. He decided to stop and found that all of the carnival booths were closed except one, which was packed with people. The action centered on a horseshoe shaped table covered with numbered cards and beans. The game being played was a variation of Lotto called Beano. The caller pulled small numbered wooden disks from an old cigar box and called the numbers aloud. The players responded by checking their card to see if they had the number called; if so, they would place a bean on the number. This sequence continued until someone filled a line of numbers on their card either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Upon filling a sequence the player would shout "beano."

Lowe inquired about the game from the caller who told him that he had run across a game called Lotto while traveling with a carnival in Germany the previous year. He had made a few changes in its play, and had changed the name to Beano.

After returning to New York, Lowe bought some dried beans, a rubber numbering stamp, and some card-board. He invited friends to his apartment to play and assumed the caller's duties. During one session Lowe noticed that one player became more excited as each bean was added to her card. Finally there was one number left and it was called! The women jumped up, became tongue tied, and instead of shouting "Beano", stuttered "B-B-B-Bingo". Lowe decided at that point to come out with his own game called Bingo.

Lowe saw the tremendous fund raising possibilities of Bingo, and at the same time, he realized that to make the game workable on a large scale, many more combinations of numbers would have to be developed for the cards. He sought the services of a professor of mathematics at Columbia University named Carl Leffler. Lowe requested that the professor devise 6,000 new Bingo cards with non repeating number groups. By 1934, there were an estimated 10,000 Bingo games a week, and Ed Lowe's firm had a thousand employees trying to keep up with demand for cards with 64 presses printing 24 hours a day. Today Bingo games can be found just about anywhere in the country.



Lottery Update

The new 2by2 game has proved to be a huge success for the North Dakota lottery. Since its launch on February 2nd, the lottery's newest game has generated considerable excitement and lots of winning players across the state. In just 19 weeks, North Dakota players have won 19 jackpots of \$20,000 each. To date, total sales for the game have been \$1.827 million, and there have been 506,817 winning tickets for \$1.157 million in prizes.

The new 2by2 game can be played every day of the week (except Sunday) and features the best odds on a \$1 play of all lottery games at 1:3.59.



Revised Gaming Tax Return Booklets

The Gaming Division is currently working with the Office of Attorney General's Information Technology Division to revise the July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 Gaming Tax Return booklets (short and long form) to include a separate line item for the game of poker.

The new gaming tax return packets should be available by late summer but we also encourage organizations to check out the on-line gaming tax return forms that can be filled out and printed from our web page at www.ag.nd.gov.

Two Commissioners Reappointed to Gaming Commission

Governor John Hoeven recently reappointed Mr. Charles Axtman and Ms. Sandi Frenzel to another three-year term on the State Gaming Commission. Their new terms expire on June 30, 2009. Mr. Axtman of Jamestown was first appointed to the Commission in March 2002, to fill the un-expired term of a former commissioner and now has been reappointed for his second full term. Ms. Frenzel of Dickinson was first appointed to the Commission on July 1, 1997, and has been reappointed for her fourth full term.

Congratulations to Commissioners Frenzel and Axtman on their reappointment to the Gaming Commission.

U.S. Government Plans to Redesign the \$5 Note

On June 29, 2006, the U.S. government announced that it will redesign the \$5 note as part of an ongoing effort to enhance the security of U.S. currency. The government currently expects the new \$5 note to be issued in early 2008.

Overall, counterfeiting of U.S. currency remains at low levels due primarily to a combination of improvements in the notes' security features, aggressive law enforcement, and education efforts to inform the public about how to verify their currency. However, the government's ongoing scrutiny of counterfeiting techniques has detected a pattern in which counterfeiters bleach the ink off of \$5 notes, then print counterfeit \$100 notes on the paper, deceiving the public because of similarities between the placement of the security features on the \$5 and \$100 notes.

The new series of redesigned notes began with the introduction of the \$20 note issued on October 9, 2003, continued with the \$50 note issued on September 28, 2004, and most recently the new \$10 note issued on March 2, 2006.



Office of Attorney General
Gaming Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Dept. 125
Bismarck, ND 58505-0040

www.ag.state.nd.us

Official Mail
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NEW Attorney General's Web Page & Employee Email Addresses

The Office of Attorney General has a new web address at **www.ag.nd.gov**. Although if you enter the old web address you will automatically be redirected to the new web address, eventually the old address will be phased out. Please update your records accordingly.

Email addresses for employees of the Office of Attorney General have also changed. All employees previously contacted by using the first initial of their first name and up to 7 letters of their last name will stay the same however the “@state.nd.us” will now be “@**nd.gov**”. Although using the previous email address will automatically redirect you to the new address, eventually the old email address will be phased out. Again, we ask that you update your records accordingly.